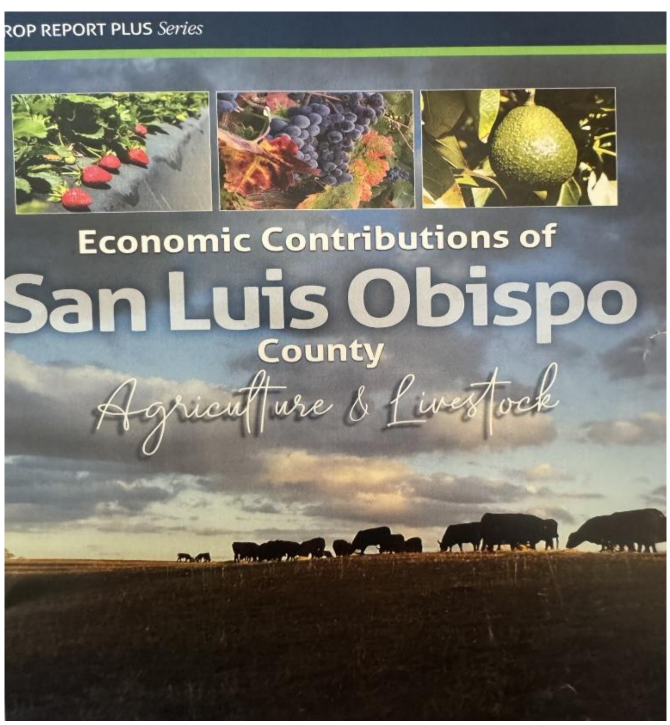
COLAB
San Luis Obispo County
The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

Weekly Update
Aug 31 – Sept. 7, 2026

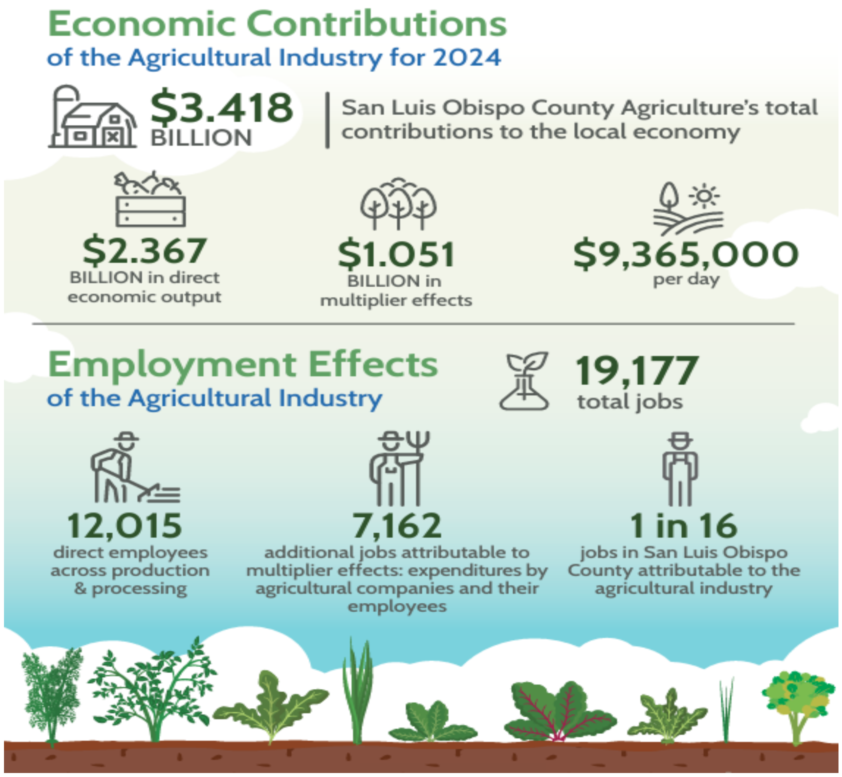
Ag Economic Impact Report

Agriculture is not just a cornerstone of our local San Luis Obispo culture; it's also a key component of our economy. The new San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Economic Contributions Report has been produced. This comprehensive document includes detailed reports on agriculture production and the impacts of ag on San Luis Obispo County. It is a 24-page economic report produced every five to seven years by the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture.

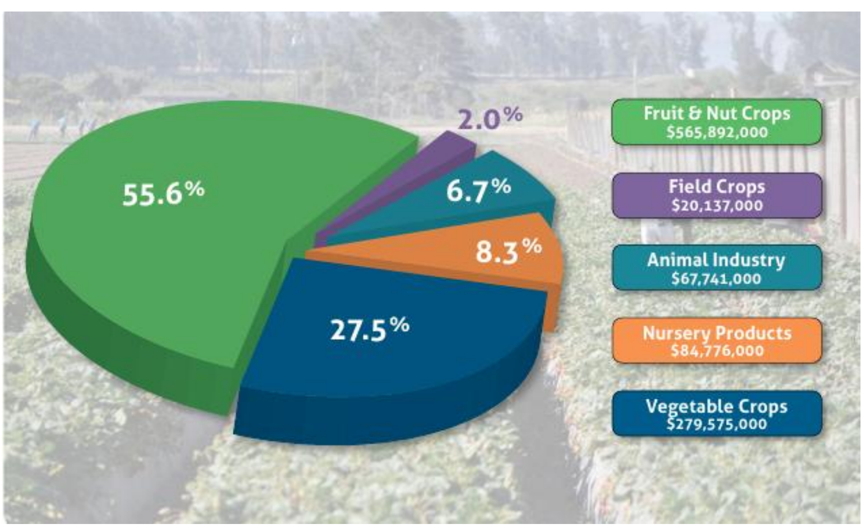


The report can be found at: [economic-contribution-report-2025]

Here are some of the highlights:



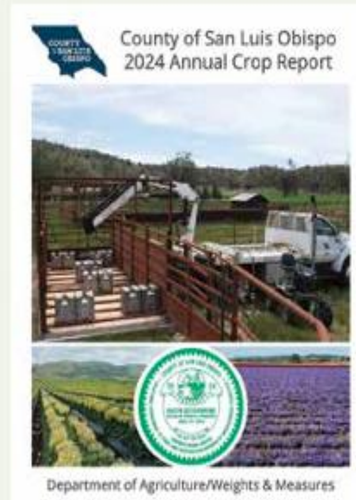
The Following is a breakdown of the types of ag production and the overall scale of their contribution:



Here are more details about the above categories:

The following list details the various commodities that make up each category in **Figure 2**, based on the County of San Luis Obispo 2024 Annual Crop Report:

- **Fruit & Tree Nut Farming:** Avocados, Lemons, Strawberries, Walnuts (English), Wine grapes (All), Miscellaneous Fruits.
- **Vegetable & Melon Farming:** Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Cilantro, Kale, Lettuce (Head), Lettuce (Leaf), Miscellaneous Vegetables.
- **Greenhouse, Nursery & Floriculture Production:** Cut Flowers & Greens, Outdoor Ornamentals, Vegetable & Ornamental Transplants, Miscellaneous Nursery Products.
- **Cattle & Other Animal Production:** Cattle and Calves, Miscellaneous (Eggs, Goats, Hogs, Lambs, Sheep, Beeswax, Honey, Milk, Pollination).
- **Field Crop Farming:** Alfalfa Hay, Grain Hay, Grazed Rangeland, Miscellaneous Field Crops.



The following 3 graphs illustrate the number of jobs generated by category:

FARM PRODUCTION SECTOR	Output Effects ($ Millions) Direct	Indirect	Induced	TOTAL
Fruit & Tree Nut Farming	$565.9	$137.3	$83.7	$786.9
Vegetable & Melon Farming	$279.6	$82.7	$40.0	$402.2
Greenhouse, Nursery & Floriculture Production	$84.8	$26.6	$17.2	$128.6
Cattle & Other Animal Production	$67.7	$37.4	$4.6	$109.7
Field Crop Farming	$20.1	$7.0	$2.7	$29.9
TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT:	$1,018.1	$291.1	$148.1	$1,457.3
	Employment Effects (# of Jobs) Direct	Indirect	Induced	TOTAL
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	5,605	3,096	851	9,552

FOOD PROCESSING	Output Effects ($ Millions) Direct	Indirect	Induced	TOTAL
Wineries	$1,066.0	$299.2	$173.5	$1,538.8
Light Processing of Fruit, Vegetable & Nursery Products	$181.8	$2.4	$92.0	$276.1
Meat & Other Animal Products	$60.6	$24.2	$5.8	$90.6
Miscellaneous Other Food Manufacturing	$40.1	$12.8	$2.6	$55.5
TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT:	$1,348.5	$338.6	$273.8	$1,961.0
	Employment Effects (# of Jobs) Direct	Indirect	Induced	TOTAL
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	6,410	1,640	1,575	9,625

The total value of the ag industry in San Luis Obispo County is assessed using the following categories:

Type of Effect	Direct	Indirect	Induced	TOTAL
FARM PRODUCTION				
Output Effects ($ Millions)	$1,018.1	$291.1	$148.1	$1,457.3
Employment Effects (# Jobs)	5,605	3,096	851	9,552
LOCALLY SOURCED, VALUE-ADDED FOOD PROCESSING				
Output Effects ($ Millions)	$1,348.5	$338.6	$273.8	$1,961.0
Employment Effects (# Jobs)	6,410	1,640	1,575	9,625
TOTAL VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY				
Output Effects ($ Millions)	$2,366.6	$629.7	$421.9	$3,418.3
Employment Effects (# Jobs)	12,015	4,736	2,426	19,177

Here are the top categories of economic contributors to our local economy listed by rank:

CATEGORY NAME	OUTPUT	RANK
Real Estate, Rentals & Leasing	$5,531,611,670	1
Utilities	$4,442,982,359	2
Manufacturing	$3,886,119,964	3
Construction	$2,716,525,630	4
Government (all levels & types)	$2,658,995,284	5
Health & Social Services	$2,511,664,859	6
Agriculture (production & processing)	**$2,366,641,497**	**7**
Accommodation & Food Services	$2,348,554,481	8
Retail Trade	$2,297,366,584	9
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	$2,283,686,441	10
Wholesale Trade	$1,602,575,509	11
Finance & Insurance	$1,382,698,526	12
Other Services	$1,088,405,782	13
Administrative & Waste Services	$951,464,130	14
Information	$941,770,989	15
Transportation & Warehousing	$609,692,129	16
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	$490,560,237	17
Educational Services	$232,426,442	18
Mining	$162,152,369	19
Management of Companies	$135,277,566	20

Here are the top employer categories listed by rank:

CATEGORY NAME	EMPLOYMENT	RANK
Government (all levels & types)	21,458	1
Accommodation & Food Services	21,408	2
Health & Social Services	19,899	3
Retail Trade	16,337	4
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	12,994	5
Real Estate, Rentals & Leasing	12,821	6
Other Services	12,356	7
Construction	12,300	8
Agriculture (production & processing)	**12,015**	**9**
Manufacturing	10,307	10
Administrative & Waste Services	8,032	11
Finance & Insurance	6,659	12
Transportation & Warehousing	4,555	13
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4,306	14
Wholesale Trade	3,486	15
Utilities	2,780	16
Educational Services	2,651	17
Information	1,941	18
Management of Companies	787	19
Mining	349	20

The report looks at the future and makes the following statement:

Toward the Future

This report has documented the role that San Luis Obispo County agriculture plays in the county economy. The key points are:

- Including local food production, processing, and multiplier effects, agriculture contributed $3,418,271,000 to the county economy. This represents over nine million dollars per day (approximately $9,365,000) or about $390,000 per hour and $6,500 per minute.
- With $2.367 billion in direct economic output from food production and processing, agriculture ranked seventh among San Luis Obispo County industries.
- As the county's ninth-largest employer, agriculture directly supported 12,015 jobs—one out of every 15.6 jobs in San Luis Obispo County—plus another 7,162 jobs from multiplier effects.
- With a Shannon-Weaver Index of 0.61, agricultural production has an exceptionally high level of economic diversification, which has provided critical stability and resilience to the agricultural industry and to the larger county economy.

Agriculture is a major pillar of the San Luis Obispo County economy and represents a vital link to the county's cultural past and competitive future. The industry will certainly face challenges and opportunities in the years ahead. Taken together, the findings herein provide the most complete picture to date of San Luis Obispo County agriculture's significant economic contributions.

With agriculture obviously playing such an important role in our local economy, both for jobs, economic productivity, and general food production, it might be worth county leadership taking a deep look at what can be done first to sustain and next to enhance the economic contributions that agriculture makes to our county. Regulators should understand the challenges that the ag community faces, and those regulators should have a desire to figure out how to minimize such challenges.

Martin Settevendemie

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Special thanks to our County Agriculture Commissioner.

Tax Rates Set

Be ready for a huge shock; our county taxes are going up. Probably no surprise to our readers, but here are the details about how they are set. The BoS is required by Government Code section 29100 to adopt the rates of taxes on the secured roll on or before October 3 of each year. They are further required by Government Code section 29101 to levy the taxes upon the taxable property of the county in specific sums.

Government Code section 29102 authorizes the BoS to adopt the tax rates of school districts and special districts, or zones or improvement districts thereof, whose affairs and finances are not under the supervision an incorporated municipality.

According to the county, the rate of tax on the Secured Roll is hereby set at the rate of $1.00 per one hundred dollars ($100) of full value as required in the California Revenue and Taxation code section 93(b).

The following graph illustrates the entire County of San Luis Obispo Schedule of Tax Rates for Fiscal Year 2026/27:

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR APPROVED
SCHEDULE OF TAX RATES
2026/2027

FUND	TAXING AGENCY		CURR YEAR 2026/2027 TAX RATE		PRIOR YEAR 2025/2026 TAX RATE
	COUNTYWIDE TAX RATES				
0013	PROPOSITION 13 BASIC TAX RATE		**1.00000%**	-	1.00000%
0110	UNITARY PIPELINE RIGHTS OF WAY	State Assessed	**1.00000%**	-	1.00000%
0112	UNITARY RAILROAD TAX RATE	State Assessed	**1.00000%**	-	1.00000%
0113	UNITARY PROPERTY TAX RATE	State Assessed	**1.00000%**	-	1.00000%
	CONTRACT				
0646	STATE WATER BOND		**0.00321%**	-	0.00321%
	DEBT SERVICE				
0114	UNITARY DEBT SERVICE		**0.23277%**	↑	0.20383%
0117	UNITARY RAILROAD DEBT SERVICE		**0.09700%**	↑	0.09000%
	INCORPORATED CITIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICT BONDS				
1100	GROVER BEACH ROAD - 2014 Series A, B & C		**0.09000%**	↑	0.08500%
1105	CAMBRIA HEALTHCARE - 2024 GO		**0.00790%**	-	0.00790%
	SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS				
	DEBT SERVICE				
1233	TEMPLETON UNIFIED - 2012 Series A, C & D		**0.05000%**	↓	0.05600%
1236	SAN LUIS COASTAL USD - 2014 Series A, B & C		**0.03655%**	↑	0.03500%
1237	SAN LUIS COASTAL USD - 2022 Series A, B & C		**0.04900%**	-	0.04900%
1252	LUCIA MAR USD - 2016 A, B, C & D		**0.02600%**	-	0.02600%
1254	LUCIA MAR USD - 2024 A		**0.02000%**	-	0.02000%
1267	TEMPLETON UNIFIED - 2024 Series A		**0.06000%**	-	0.06000%
1276	ATASCADERO UNIFIED - 2010 Series A & B		**0.03900%**	-	0.03900%
1277	ATASCADERO UNIFIED - 2014 Series A, B & C		**0.03904%**	-	0.03904%
1278	ATASCADERO UNIFIED - 2024 Series A		**0.05400%**	↑	0.04600%
1304	CUESTA COMM COLLEGE - 2014 A, B & C		**0.01500%**	-	0.01500%
1514	CAYUCOS ELEM - 2016 Rfndg of 2006 A & 2004 B		**0.01500%**	-	0.01500%
1545	SHANDON UNIFIED - 2016 A		**0.02300%**	↓	0.02800%
1546	SHANDON UNIFIED - 2020 A		**0.03200%**	-	0.03200%
1550	COAST USD IMP DIST #1 - 2011A Rfndg of 2002 A & B		**0.02800%**	-	0.02800%
1559	SAN MIGUEL ELEM - 2016 A & B		**0.02700%**	-	0.02700%
1560	SAN MIGUEL ELEM - 2020 A		**0.03000%**	-	0.03000%
1570	PASO ROBLES UNIFIED - 2006A, 2010 A & B		**0.01035%**	-	0.01035%
1571	PASO ROBLES SFID 2016 A & B		**0.03700%**	↓	0.04775%

Death and taxes… at least the former is an escape from the latter.

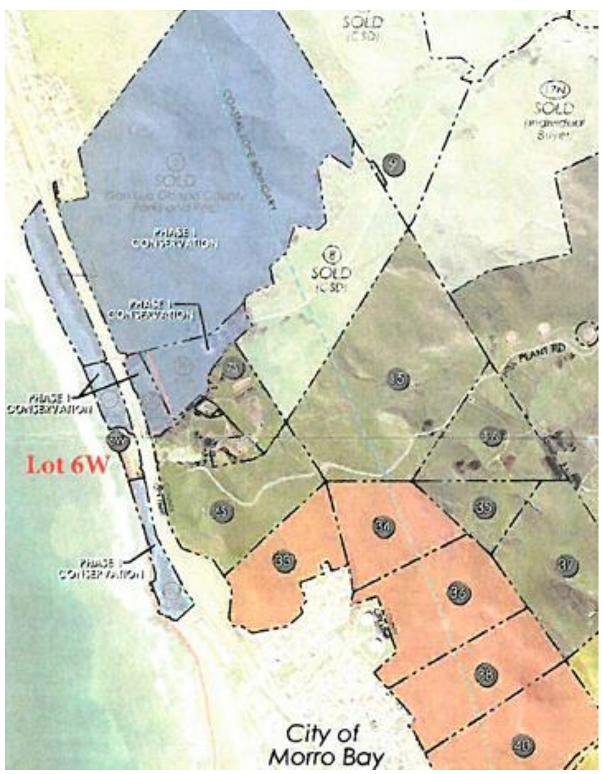
Land Conservancy Hopefully at no Taxpayer Expense

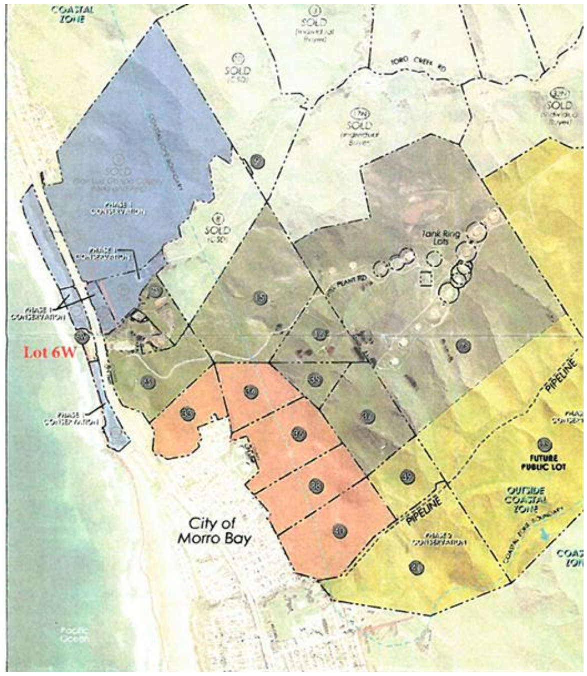
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, along with the Cayucos Land Conservancy, is pursuing the acquisition of 4.28 acres of open space land in the northern area of Morro Bay for conservation. The land is currently owned by Chevron and is valued at $120,000. Apparently, the Board of Supervisors is somehow quarterbacking the plan. Item 9 on the Sept. 1 BoS agenda reads: “Board hereby sets November 17, 2026, at 9:00 AM, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the chamber of the Board of Supervisors, County Government Center, 1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo as the date and place to act on the proposed acquisition of the Subject Property at its regular meeting.”

Supposedly, no taxpayer funds will be used for the purchase.

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning & Building is currently reviewing the acquisition for consistency with the County’s General Plan, and the County Environmental Coordinator is currently reviewing the project for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, with completion of these reviews anticipated by November 2026.

Here are maps of the property:





The notice of the deal references “the purchase price of the Subject Property is One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars ($120,000). Funding for the acquisition will be provided by partners land trusts comprised of the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo and Cayucos Land Conservancy, and no additional General Fund monies will be required for the acquisition of the Subject Property.” We hope that means the two conservancy partners have raised the funds privately, and the purchase does not involve precious tax dollars that are in short supply already.

Work Begins: Santa Margarita Fire Station

Item 15 on the Sept. 1 BoS agenda reads: A request from the Santa Margarita Fire Protection District to waive permit processing fees for construction permits associated with the new Santa Margarita Fire Station. Exempt from CEQA.

Of course, fees are expensive and add to the overall expense of any new project. In this case, the fees would otherwise be paid by taxpayers to another taxpayer funded organization, the county, all to build a facility designed to protect taxpayers.

The current Santa Margarita Fire Station

Here are the details regarding the request:
Reasons why project is exempt: The project includes the construction of a 5,890 square foot (sf) Pre-engineered steel building to serve as a fire station, apparatus bay, and administrative facility, a 3,401 square foot driveway and parking area, 3,029 square foot leach field within the Commercial retail land use category with access to an existing roadway network that is adequate to serve the project. The applicant has designed the project, grading, and site improvements to minimize site disturbance, and the project has a relatively small area of disturbance of approximately. The project area is located within the Community of Santa Margarita in the Salinas River Sub-area of the North County Planning area and is subject to the applicable sub-area standards outlined in County Code Section 22.94.030. This project, as proposed, meets all applicable community standards for development. The proposed fire station is not considered a commercial use; however, the proposed station is an allowed use within the Commercial Retail Land Use Category. Additionally, there is no existing agricultural activity.

The location of the new facility.

Bike Path Dream$ and Realitie$

Sometimes we wonder if the majority on our Board of Supervisors has a fantasy that if they continue to grossly underfund road work in SLO County, perhaps the purposeful neglect will lead to such dramatic road deterioration that we all wake up one day and decide to travel to work, run our errands, drop the kids at school, pick up groceries, make our doctors' appointments and get the dog to the groomer all by bicycle.

The fantasy continues with the gleeful realization that an incredible network of pleasant pathways has been graciously provided by our wise elected (and non-elected) leaders who know better what we really need.

Fantasy land?

The centerpieces of the fantasy are the Bob Jones trail, a little over 4 miles at over $10 million per mile, the forthcoming Morro to Cayucos pathway at a yet to be determined price and in the not-too-distant future, probably a Templeton to Atascadero trail at roughly the same price as the Bob Jones trail.

Don't get us wrong, we are not opposed to bike trails. They are great for the segment of the population that uses them, and some tourists appreciate them as well. They are excellent family recreation opportunities and make cycling and walking much safer than using the shoulder of the road. We do wish there was a way for cyclists to pay for the pathways like drivers have to pay for roads.

But our roads are falling apart. It's not just about bumpy rides and damage to our cars. It's about safety and congestion. Our BoS has done almost nothing in 6 years to address those issues, but they have worked hard to get these bike paths going.

The one thing the BoS has done is tell us that if we want roadwork, we will have to tax ourselves. In other words, they spend gobs of money on other (unnecessary) stuff and expect us to cough up extra cash to cover their negligence with more taxes.

This is exactly why the sales tax effort failed. Taxpayers watch the BoS make really stupid decisions about our tax dollars (IE: $25k to Santa Cruz County to help pay for a consultant). They watch the BoS prioritize spending hundreds of millions of dollars on homelessness and subsidized housing, but almost completely ignore roads. So how can we expect taxpayers to be willing to make extra expenditure on something the BoS won't?

Two expensive bike path measures are before the BoS on Sept. 1:

Item 10 on the Sept 1 Board of Supervisors agenda addresses the Morro to Cayucos path. The 16-page resolution reads in part:

WHEREAS, COUNTY needs to obtain certain property interests from GRANTOR for the Morro Bay to Cayucos Connector Pathway Project WBS 320054 ("Pathway Project"); and

WHEREAS, the certain property interests are on GRANTOR's land west of State Highway 1 identified by the County Assessor as APN 065-022-009 as conveyed to GRANTOR in the Grant Deed to GRANTOR recorded 8/15/2019 as Document No. 2019033391 in official County Records and a portion of the property legally described in Certificate of Compliance 2020037336 recorded July 22, 2020 (hereafter the "Subject Property"); and

WHEREAS, GRANTOR and The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, acting on behalf of the COUNTY, have executed a Purchase and Sale Agreement ("PSA") for the Subject Property, to be designated as new Public Lot 6W, which shall be upon satisfaction of the conditions precedent to closing in the PSA; and

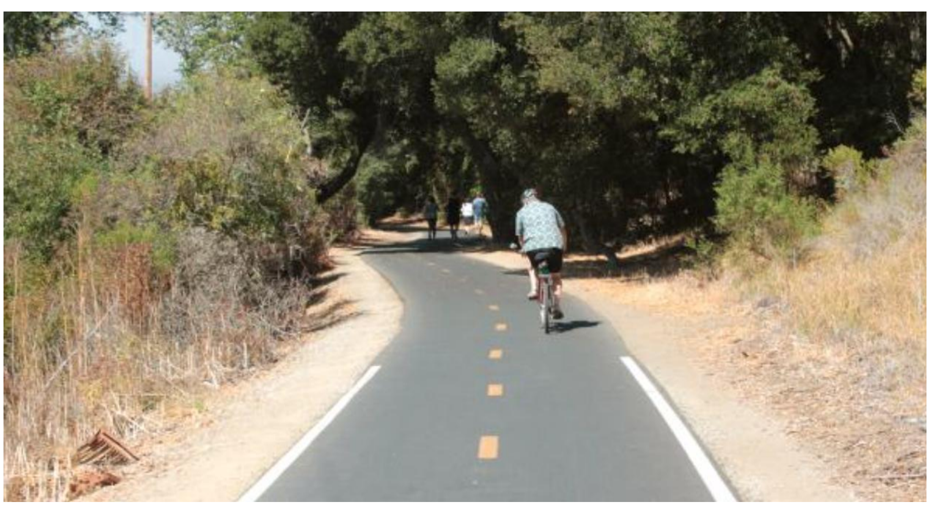
NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions, promises and agreement herein set forth, it is mutually agreed by and between GRANTOR and COUNTY as follows:

1. The parties have herein set forth the whole of their agreement.

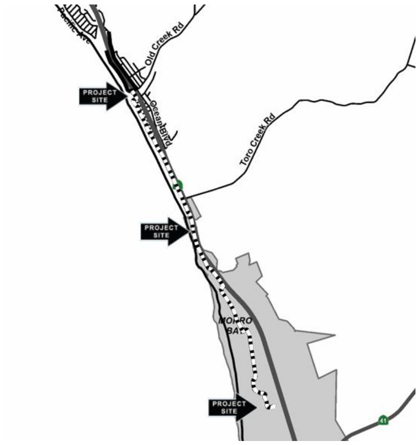
2. The COUNTY shall accept delivery of the Subject Property interests, in their As-Is, Where-Is condition with all faults, if any, including, without limitation, the environmental condition of that portion of the Subject Property conveyed by this Agreement and by Easement Deed No. 24-32.02 when title to said Easement Deed vests in the COUNTY.

3. GRANTOR hereby warrants and represents that (1) GRANTOR has sufficient title in the Subject Property to fully convey to COUNTY all of the property rights and interests described herein and in the Easement Deed, subject to any mortgage, loan, required consent or other superior interest, and (2) that GRANTOR's title in the Subject Property shall not be compromised or transferred by any voluntary or involuntary transfer of any property interest, or the voluntary or involuntary creation of any lien, in the Subject Property to someone other than the COUNTY prior to close of escrow for the PSA, except as otherwise provided in the PSA.

4. GRANTOR hereby grants to COUNTY, or its contractor, permission to enter upon the Subject Property within those certain areas described and depicted in Exhibit B and C attached to the Easement Deed and made a part thereof ("TCE Area"), for the purpose of construction and construction support activities related to the Pathway Project including, but not limited to, the stockpiling of materials, soil, and equipment. This Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) shall commence on September 30, 2026 and shall terminate upon recordation of the notice of completion for the Project or July 30, 2030, whichever shall occur first ("TCE Term"). COUNTY will give GRANTOR written notice at least five (5) business days prior to entering the property for visual inspections, and a minimum of 30 days prior to commencement of the Pathway Project construction. Upon completion of the Pathway Project construction, the TCE Area shall be generally restored to the condition that existed prior to the COUNTY's entry on the TCE Area including re-constructing fencing unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties. The COUNTY shall also be responsible for restoration or erosion control vegetation in the Easement Area to the satisfaction of GRANTOR and the applicable regulatory agencies.



A pleasant ride on a pathway in better condition than on many of our roads.



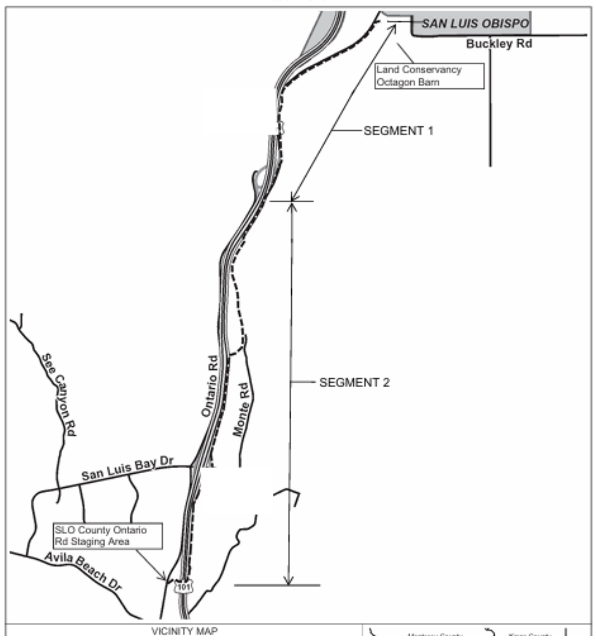
You will be able to drive your car or truck to Cayucos, unload your bike, jump on and pedal to Morro for a great Brunch at Carla's Country Kitchen. Then ride back to Cayucos and hook your bike back onto the car or truck for a bumpy drive home.

Building a pleasant path at over $10 million per mile isn't the only expanse involved with the Bob Jones trail. Here are conditions laid out in a 34-page contract with Caltrans for construction standards to be required for the pleasant pathway:

- Construction material testing for soil, concrete, asphalt, and aggregate, in accordance with ASTM and AASHTO standards
- Special inspections and field observations during construction to verify conformance with approved plans and specifications.
- In-situ testing including nuclear density, sand cone, DCP, field CBR, and percolation tests
- Coordination with County staff and construction contractors to provide timely support during active construction phases
- Reasonably respond to calls as needed, including after hours, weekends and holidays. If not available or possible to make it on-site, then virtual support may be a necessary alternative as warranted.
- Coordination with County staff and construction contractors to provide timely support during active construction phases
- All work shall conform to the County Quality Assurance Manual, Caltrans Specifications, and project contract documents. Personnel must be consistent with those listed in the consultant's organizational chart, and any staffing changes require County approval. Written reports are required for all completed testing. Budgets must be provided for each task order based on the approved fee schedule.
- Gamma-Gamma Logging

Mr. Googly tells us that: Gamma-Gamma Logging (GGL) is a non-destructive test method used to assess the concrete integrity of drilled shafts. Two-inch diameter PVC access tubes are attached to the steel reinforcing cage prior to cage insertion into the shaft excavation and concrete placement. In cases where testing was not initially planned, GGL can be performed using core holes drilled through the concrete.

So, beyond the expensive construction of the pleasant pathway, we should also be cognizant of ongoing maintenance, repair and liability coverage costs. These have yet to be publicized.



After a bumpy congested drive to SLO, cyclists can unload their bikes for a pleasant round trip to Avila for a delightful afternoon in America's nicest beach town.

Bicycle path proponents are quick to point out that much of the funding comes from state grants. Ooohkayyy… and who pays for those grants?

Cars at the Bob Jones trail.

Are pleasant bicycle paths an indulgence? Most would probably say not really – as long as we can afford them. But is it fair to put them at higher spending levels than local road repairs?

Mark your calendar:

Last Week

You Are Now a Santa Cruz Taxpayer

In other words, some of the tax dollars that you have paid to San Luis Obispo County are now on their way to Santa Cruz County.   You might be asking yourself, why would our county (which is struggling financially) send my tax dollars to Santa Cruz County?

The short answer is to make Supervisor Gibson happy. $25,000 of your tax dollars are now going to some political activist employed by Santa Cruz to fight offshore oil drilling, and that gives Gibson the warm fuzzies.   The funds are for participation in the Local Government Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Coordination Program.

You may be asking yourself whether there really is a threat that offshore drilling may be expanded off the California coast. The answer is: highly unlikely. While the Trump administration is opening up the opportunity for new leases off the California coast, there has been no interest from the oil industry to negotiate such leases.

Here in San Luis Obispo County, there are two big factors preventing offshore drilling. The first is that most geologists believe there is little to no oil under the seabed of our coast. The second is that San Luis Obispo County voters approved Measure A in 1986 which prohibits the development of onshore support for offshore drilling. Without support from utilities such as receiving terminals and hubs to transport the oil, it is impossible to make offshore drilling work along our county's coast. Been that way for 40 years and will continue forever unless voters decide differently.

The vote to send your tax dollars to Santa Cruz was 3 – 2, with Supervisors Peschong and Moreno opposing. Both stated that with Measure A in place, we don't need to keep fighting against something that isn't happening and that the tax dollars are needed here in our own county for our own services.

Gibson's justification for sending your money to his friends in Santa Cruz was that the evil Trump administration is plotting and scheming to plaster our entire California coast with oil rigs which will scare away all the tourists. Odd, coming from a former oil industry geologist who should know a thing or two about how that industry works.

It appears he knows very well how the political consulting business works – he is keeping it well funded for some Santa Cruz political activist saving us from a very big very bad very invisible boogie man. If (when) Gibson or his colleagues are forced to deny funding requests
from legitimate San Luis Obispo County programs, we hope this little transaction will be remembered.

In COLAB's testimony against the cash giveaway, we suggested that supporters hold a fundraiser instead. They could raise money, increase awareness and keep local taxpayer funds local – where they are needed most.

As a fig leaf, Supervisor Paulding did request an accounting of how the funds are spent. It would be great if a detailed report was forthcoming, but we wouldn't be surprised to see a vague description of lobbying trips to Washington DC complete with expensive hotel and meal costs.

Slightly Hazy Cannabis Report

Item 3 on the Aug 19 BoS agenda read: Submittal of a report of the tax compliance audits of operators subject to the County Commercial Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The item was on the consent agenda and therefore had no discussion.

Previous discussions at the BoS indicated that we have 6 or 7 cannabis producers in the county, but we are unclear whether some may have consolidated. It is unfortunate that this report only covers 4 producers and has no explanation as to whether this is representative of the entire cannabis tax income to the county.

It is also unfortunate (irresponsible?) to note such a large variation with producer number 4 but give no details about the significant difference between what was reported and what was discovered under audit.

County of San Luis Obispo
Commercial Cannabis Business Tax Audits
Summary of Monetary Audit Findings

		TAXABLE REVENUES				AMOUNT DUE BY AUDIT FINDINGS			
Establishment *	Period Under Review	Reported	Audited	Difference	% of Reported Amount	Taxes/Fees Due/(Refund)	Penalties**	Interest**	Total Due/(Refund)
1	FY 2024-25	395,224	395,400	176	0.0%	11	-	-	11
2	FY 2024-25	432,039	431,439	(600)	-0.1%	(36)	-	-	(36)
3	FY 2024-25	172,808	172,808	-	0.0%	-	-	-	-
4	FY 2024-25	215,957	520,820	304,864	-	18,292	-	-	18,292
		$ 1,216,028	$ 1,520,468	$ 304,440		$ 18,266	$ -	$ -	$ 18,266

* Establishment names have been removed for purposes of confidentiality.
** The County will not assess penalties and interest on additional taxes due for the first cannabis audit if paid within thirty days of final report date.

It is worth noting that there is no retail operation within the unincorporated portion of SLO county – just production. Each city has its own regulations and tax structure.

Oversight Underappreciated

Item 22 on the Aug 18 BoS agenda was a request for approval of a resolution to dissolve the Citizen's Homeless Accountability Commission per the request of the Commission.

We find it tremendously unfortunate that any kind of oversight would be eliminated, but it is especially so with this topic. We are not suggesting any sort of maleficence, but it is a very large category of spending for the county and is always a sensitive subject with people concerned about responsible spending and value for the taxpayer.

Apparently, the committee faced challenges achieving a quorum and became frustrated with the logistics of doing substantive business.

Here are some highlights of the resolution:

WHEREAS, in 2022 the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors established the Citizens Homelessness Accountability Commission (CHAC); and

WHEREAS, over the course of its work, CHAC produced analyses and annual reports documenting progress, challenges, and system-level opportunities of the County's response to unhoused individuals and its five-year Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness; and

WHEREAS, CHAC members previously met to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of operating as a Brown Act body; and

WHEREAS, CHAC members identified that the formal requirements of a Brown Act have posed significant barriers to the CHAC's ability to carry out its duties; and

WHEREAS, CHAC chair and members affirm that the County has made strong, positive progress in implementing the goals of the County's five-year plan to address homelessness and

WHEREAS, the CHAC chair and members have expressed confidence in the direction of the CNOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, State of California, that the Board hereby dissolves the Citizen's Homelessness Accountability Commission. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors in its county's Homeless Services Division and no longer believe a formal oversight body is necessary to ensure progress or accountability; and

WHEREAS, certain CHAC members have expressed to the County that the CHAC be dissolved and allow the individual members to continue to collaborate on the County's homelessness response through other available avenues.

Assuming that county spending on homeless programs is on the up and up, and that efficiencies and accountability is all good, the oversight board still plays an important role in assuring taxpayers and policy makers that the county's efforts are being well managed.

We hope that a new committee might be formed in the future, and that logistical problems can be solved so that the public can once again be assured that the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are under scrutiny.

Affordable Housing Report

The last item of business, Item 29, on the August 18 BoS agenda was to receive and file the Title 29 Affordable Housing Fund Annual Report FY 2025-26. We applaud those who work to create affordable housing projects, and we appreciate their efforts to make them reasonably attractive and complimentary to the surrounding neighborhoods.


COUNTY of SAN LUIS OBISPO

Department of Social Services
Homeless Services Division

Title 29 Affordable Housing Fund
Annual Report FY 2025/26

August 18, 2026

The kind of housing desired by liberals, but opposed here in SLO County

There is no question that the shortage of affordable housing impacts our local workforce, which is a drag on our local economy. It is also clear that creating opportunity for entry level home stability assures a smoother transition to long-term productivity for the workforce.

What many do have a problem with, however, is the notion that low-income housing can be made affordable by putting an extra financial load on mid-level and higher income housing.
As it is, unless the support for a project comes from private fundraising, affordable housing is really subsidized housing. Whether in the form of grants or other types of government funding, the money always comes from the pockets of the taxpayer. Often, that very same taxpayer may be struggling to meet their own housing needs. Here are the highlights of the report:

Summary of All Accounts

Beginning Balance FY 25-26	Interest Available	Disbursed Allocations	Unspent Allocations	Funds Allocated in the 2026 Action Plan	Remaining Available Funds
$558,321.03	$20,952.95	$108,775.83	$205,734.00	$0.00	$264,764.15

The agency is currently working with 2 organizations developing 5 projects throughout the county. Each is different, and designed to meet different needs within the community. We count 225 units of low income housing all together. Here is a summary of each project:

Rolling Hills III

- Developed by People's Self-Help Housing
- A 28-unit affordable housing community for low-income individuals and families including 7 units for those experiencing homelessness in Templeton
- Action Plan 2024: $89,978
- Pre-Construction
- Estimated Completion January 2029

Arroyo Terrace Apartments

- Developed by San Luis Obispo Nonprofit Housing Corporation
- A 63-unit affordable housing community for low- and very low-income households
- Action Plan 2022: $55,088
- Action Plan 2024: $199,884
- Under Construction, Estimated Completion October 2026

Balay Ko on Monterey

- Developed by San Luis Obispo Nonprofit Housing Corporation
- A 56-unit affordable housing community for low-income seniors in San Luis Obispo
- Action Plan 2024: $228,641
- Under Construction, Estimated Completion October 2026

Monterey Family Apartments

- Developed by San Luis Obispo Nonprofit Housing Corporation
- A 50-unit affordable housing community for low-income seniors in San Luis Obispo
- Action Plan 2025: $69,448
- Under Construction, Estimated Completion December 2027

Cambria Pines

- Developed by People's Self-Help Housing
- A 28-unit affordable housing community for low-income individuals and families including 7 units for those experiencing homelessness in Templeton
- Action Plan 2024: $89,978
- Pre-Construction
- Estimated Completion January 2029

The following chart illustrates the funding available for future projects:

Remaining funds for Future Projects

Fund Source	Beginning Balance FY 25-26	Disbursed Allocations	Unspent Allocations	Accrued Interest	Low, Medium & High-Risk Funds	Remaining Available Funds*
Open to All	$87,398.19	$0.00	$52,152.13	$20,952.95	$0.00	**$56,199.01**
North County	$202,252.43	$88,040.43	$89,978.00	$0.00	$62,104.00	**($37,870.00)**
Central County	$90,588.26	$13,388.67	$17,296.00	$0.00	$46,652.00	**$13,251.59**
South County	$124,427.55	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$124,427.55**
North Coast	$53,654.60	$7,346.73	$46,307.87	$0.00	$1,392.00	**($1,392.00)**
Total Amounts	$558,321.03	$108,775.83	$205,734.00	$20,952.95	$110,148.00	**$154,616.15****

*Low, Medium and High-Risk funds have been deducted from the Remaining Available Amount.
Total recommended funding for the 2027 NOFA is $154,616.15 (Open to All funds, Central County funds, South County funds).

Local Sharpshooter Concern

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture is working to determine if the recent discovery of a Glassy-winged sharpshooter on an ornamental plant in an Arroyo Grande nursery poses a threat to county agricultural production.

A Glassy-winged sharpshooter

The Glassy-winged sharpshooter is an invasive pest that carries Pierce's disease, which is particularly harmful to grapes and some citrus crops. Native to eastern Mexico, the pest is sometimes spread via nursery operations that ship plants throughout the United States.

In 1999, a Glassy-winged sharpshooter infestation was responsible for destroying over 300 acres of grapes in Temecula, California. The resultant setback caused many years of disruption to the wine industry in that region.

Grape plants affected by Pierce’s Disease

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture reports the following on its webpage: Out of an abundance of caution, County agricultural staff conducted comprehensive visual inspections of all plant material at the San Luis Obispo Costco location. Inspectors examined plants for GWSS eggs, nymphs, and adults and found no evidence of the pest. In addition, insect detection traps were deployed on the property and throughout the surrounding shopping center to support ongoing monitoring efforts.

For more info, see: "https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/agriculture-weights-and-measures/department-news/county-investigation-detects-no-glassy-winged-sharpshooter-in-san-luis-obispo"County Investigation Detects No Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter in San Luis Obispo - County of San Luis Obispo

Change at REACH

REACH (Regional Economic Action Coalition) founding CEO Melissa James is stepping down in her role but will remain active with the organization. James helped to create REACH eight years ago.

REACH actively works with business and community leaders to promote and facilitate economic development that benefits the central coast. Their "goal is to transform the quality of life on the Central Coast through an unprecedented regional pursuit of inclusive economic prosperity."

Melissa James, founding CEO of REACH

We like REACH because it is the most active economic development effort in our county, and in our region, looking to the future to anticipate smart potential that drives jobs, grows our economy and secures community wellbeing. This means understanding the potential and working to identify and connect the pieces needed to achieve such potential.

REACH sometimes comes under criticism because it receives some public funding from San Luis Obispo County. However, the funding is a small portion of their overall budget, and the county spends little else on economic development. The question about the value to the taxpayer is valid, but few have alternatives to suggest.

James will be assisting in a nationwide search for her replacement. She will assist with training and then shift to an advisory position. We wish her well in her new role.

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Reminder: The last page of this newsletter has a membership application. Please join COLAB.

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SHOCKER: SF Dem Party Rejects Billionaire Tax

They declined to endorse a gimmick that splits labor, spooked the governor, and treats San Francisco's tax base like a piñata

By Richie Greenberg, August 28, 2026

Wednesday night was supposed to be another ritual of progressive piety at the SF DCCC Democrat Party central committee meeting. California's state party had already bowed. All that remained was for the SF Dems to kiss the ring on Proposition 40, the 5 percent raid on California's billionaires. Instead, the room did the unthinkable.

Seventeen members voted to oppose it. Four voted yes. Nancy Pelosi (*who is a voting SFDCC member*) parked herself in the "no endorsement" corner. Scott Wiener, running to inherit her House seat, *abstained*.

Let's clap for the grown-ups.

SF Dems Chair Nancy Tung said San Francisco Democrats care about inequality, and Prop 40 is still the wrong tool. A one-time tax does not fix a structural budget.

Another member conceded Prop 40 does not land evenly across California. It lands on the Bay Area. It tells startup founders not to build the next company here if they think it might actually succeed. If you tap the well once, you will tap it again. That is not a right-wing talking point. That is how capital works.

Other voting members refused to pretend out-migration is just a mere fairytale. People actually leave. Their income taxes leave with them. A state billionaire tax is not a long-term healthcare plan and yet some call for federal reform instead of a one-off confiscation. The people targeted can vote with their feet.

Several SF DCCC members put an actual alternative on the table: support for a *national wealth tax*, a resolution the committee passed unanimously.

Do the SF Dem leaders deserve praise? These party delegates looked at a measure first as a rally chant and then wondered what happens after the applause dies. They noticed California teachers' unions, the NAACP, firefighters, Planned Parenthood (!), the state's budget technicians – and even Gov. Gavin Newsom are not on board. They noticed the war chest against Prop 40 is north of $150 million.

Then those delegates who were in favor of the Prop 40 tax pushed the implication that anyone who doubts Prop 40 has been bought off – influenced by the wealthy. It is a convenient and lazy theory.

There were warnings that opposing the tax would hand Fox News a talking point.

Bernie Sanders flew in earlier this year to label billionaires as oligarchs. Ro Khanna and Maxine Waters treated a Prop 40's tax a moral destiny.

None of them have to explain why the next tech unicorn decides to incorporate in Austin.

Which brings us to Scott Wiener, the man who so desperately may be congressman. He abstained on Prop 40. Why? Because he is in a race to succeed Pelosi against Connie Chan, (who was conveniently absent) at a Pelosi-hosted fundraiser while this grenade went off.

An abstention lets Wiener tell labor he did not stab them in the back while also telling his donors he did not light the match. It is the oldest move in Sacramento: when a vote has a constituency on both sides, Wiener becomes furniture.

A candidate like Wiener wants to lecture the country about housing supply who suddenly can't decide yes or a no on the highest-profile tax fight in the state.

Nancy Pelosi at least owned the dodge. "No endorsement" is a veteran's way of saying she will not die on that hill. Wiener did not even climb it.

The SFDCCC majority of delegates did not become Republicans at 10:43 p.m. They declined to endorse a gimmick that splits labor, spooked the governor, and treats San Francisco's tax base like a piñata. They saw the writing on the wall.

Wiener wanted a headline that said nothing. That's the real scandal.

Richie Greenberg
Richie Greenberg is a long-time San Francisco resident, political commentator and former Republican candidate for mayor. He was founder and media spokesman for the recall of DA Chesa Boudin. Follow him on X @greenbergnation and richiegreenberg.org

Leaving California: $7 Billion CG Oncology Leaves California for Texas

CG Oncology isn't leaving California because they are sick of the weather

By Katy Grimes, August 27, 2026

CG Oncology, a $7 billion company, moved its corporate headquarters from Irvine, California, to Dallas earlier in 2026, the Dallas Morning News reports.

CG Oncology is a late-stage clinical biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing a potential backbone bladder-sparing therapeutic for patients afflicted with bladder cancer.

The new principal executive offices are at Pegasus Park, according to CG Oncology. The company signed an approximately eight-year lease there. Its Irvine lease was set to expire at the end of August 2026. It still maintains other offices, including in California.

I don't think CG Oncology is leaving Irvine, California because they are sick of the weather – they are sick of highest-in-the-nation taxes, regulations, anti-growth policies, and California's hostile-to-business attitude.

Vice president of Communications and Patient Advocacy Sarah Connors, cited several strategic reasons:

- Better access to talent, investors, and strategic partners
- A more central U.S. location
- Modern facilities that support collaboration and innovation
- Infrastructure and cost advantages
- Proximity to research institutions including UT Southwestern Medical Center and the University of Texas at Dallas
- Placement in one of the nation's fastest-growing life-sciences ecosystems

Connors described Dallas and Pegasus Park as offering "a unique combination of research institutions, healthcare innovation, talent and connectivity" that supports the company's long-term vision while fitting its remote-first culture. As the company grows, Dallas is expected to help it foster collaboration, attract talent, and advance its work on bladder cancer therapies.

Their move is evidence of a damning pattern of California companies relocating operations or headquarters to Texas, and other pro-business states.

My **Leaving California** series at the *Globe* since 2018 has covered large and small business owners, and California residents who left hostile California for a more welcoming state.
Chevron, X/Twitter, Space X, Oracle, Hewlett Packard, Charles Schwab, Blue Diamond Growers, Leprino Foods, Anheuser-Busch and Toyota Motor North America, are just a few of the mega-businesses which left California because of the state's leftist/Marxist politics and regulatory environment.

And Paramount has been considering moving its HQ and $30 billion in spending, stemming from the high-stakes antitrust fight from California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who is leading a coalition of 12 states suing to block Paramount's $110–111 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery. Federal regulators have largely cleared the deal, but the state lawsuit has delayed closing and triggered daily "ticking fees" that start Oct. 1, 2026, costing roughly $7 million per day.

The damage California Governor Gavin Newsom has inflicted on the state is irreparable at this point, and should be a disqualifier for any future political aspirations.

Katy Grimes
Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses? and a contributor to "Taxifornia 2016."
A California native and Navy mom, Katy lives in Sacramento, CA.

Bonta Sues to Block USPS Mail-Ballot Rule After Supreme Court Stay

Frames federal election integrity push as 'federal overreach'

By Megan Barth, August 26, 2026

California Attorney General Rob Bonta on Wednesday launched another lawsuit against the Trump administration, this time targeting a U.S. Postal Service final rule on mail ballots. and invited the public to watch him sell it as a defense of "election integrity."

The post quoted his earlier announcement that California and allied states were "suing to block USPS' rule restricting mail-in voting."

The official statement published by Bonta reveals that he is co-leading a coalition of 24 attorneys general with Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford, and Washington Attorney General Nick Brown, Bonta filed in federal court in Massachusetts and sought a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes is among the coalition members joining the action.

The complaint argues the USPS rule, published in advance of the November midterms, is unconstitutional, contrary to statute, and without legal authority because it lets the Postal Service reject ballot mail, compile "enrolled" mail-voter lists, and impose new envelope and barcode requirements.

"This mail-in voting rule is an unlawful overreach that shows just how far President Trump will go to control elections, but as I've said before, this fight is far from over and we are confident that the facts and the law are on our side," Bonta said in the press release.

"On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to fully close the door on the President's attempt to interfere in our election administration. Today, we're taking legal action to stop this unlawful rule in its tracks and ensure that voters can exercise their constitutional right to vote. Let's be clear: the U.S. Constitution gives states the power to regulate elections — not the President and not USPS. Ballots are an extension of our voices and we're asking the court to ensure that every person has the right to make theirs heard."

Gov. Gavin Newsom piled on: "Donald Trump does not run elections. States do. And his latest attack on democracy is proof of how weak he has become."

On Monday, the Supreme Court granted a stay that allowed implementation of key pieces of Trump's March elections executive order after finding the states' earlier challenge was premature because USPS had not yet issued a final rule.

As the *Globe* reported Tuesday, that order was a procedural win for the White House and a warning shot to Sacramento. The rule, implementing Section 3 of Executive Order 14399, would require states to enroll mail voters with USPS, use redesigned ballot envelopes, and accept that ballots not matching USPS lists or specifications may not be delivered.

In a state that mails a ballot to every registered voter and relies on vote-by-mail for the vast majority of turnout, Bonta's office calls that a "catastrophe for voting rights."

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli responded: "What election integrity? You're fighting to preserve non-citizens' access to mail ballots. I've never seen a state AG fight this hard to shield fraudsters and illegals from accountability. Imagine if he used his efforts to protect citizens."

Bonta fired back: "Once again, the First Assistant U.S. Attorney conveniently omits a key fact: the Trump Administration's USPS rule that would severely restrict mail-in voting remains blocked in California and 23 other states through the upcoming November 3, 2026 general election. My office is proudly co-leading that case."

Megan Barth

Megan Barth is the Executive Editor of The California Globe and former, founding editor of the Nevada Globe. Specializing in investigative reporting, her work has appeared in national and local news. The highlights of her career include interviewing President Donald Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and FBI Director Kash Patel. When she isn't editing, writing, or talking, you can find her hiking and relaxing in Northern Nevada.

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